

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING(S)

Figs. 1A and 1B have been amended. The attached sheet of formal drawings replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1A and 1B.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated September 13, 2006 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3-8 and 11-12 are pending in the present application with claims 1, 6 and 11 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 6 has been amended in order to further clarify the features of the present application.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 35 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they allegedly do not show the "stopper 1" of the present invention. One new sheet of replacement drawings is attached hereto, which includes amended Figures 1A and 1B, which include the reference numeral 1 which refers to the stopper in the present application. It is believed that amended Figures 1A and 1B correct the error noted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 6-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Specifically the Examiner contends that the claims include subject matter not described in the specification. In particular, the Examiner argues that the opening of the slot or valve is actuated by a feeding tube and that it is not actuated by virtue of the elasticity or flexibility of the material or by hydrostatic pressure. As noted above, claim 6 has been amended in order to clarify the features of the present application. It is believed that the amendments to claim 6 made herein correct the error noted by the Examiner and are fully supported by the specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

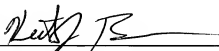
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3-5 and 11 are allowed. Applicants note that claim 12 depends from allowable claim 1 and thus, although not specifically mentioned by the Examiner, it is assumed that claim 12 is also allowable over the prior art.

In light of the remarks and amendments made herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-8 and 11-12 are patentable over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
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Respectfully submitted,



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